REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-11 and 14-40 are pending in this application. Claims 1-3, 5-7, 17-20 and 35-40 have been allowed. Dependent claims 15 and 24-26 were found to be allowable. Claims 8-11, 14, 16, 21-23 and 27-35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,040,967 to DiSalvo. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection in view of the following remarks.

Applicants have amended independent claim 8 to incorporate the features of allowable claim 15 and independent claim 21 has been amended to include the features of allowable claim 25. Dependent claim 16 has been amended to improve form and to more precisely define features of the invention. Independent claim 29 has been amended to include features similar to allowable claim 25. No new matter has been addded by any of these amendments. In view of the foregoing amendments, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is moot.

Applicants therefore believe that all claims pending in this application are allowable and request that this case be passed to issue. However, if any issue remains to be resolved, Applicants request that the Examiner telephone the undersigned.

Dated: February 3, 2004

Respectfully submitted,
OSTRAGER CHONG & FLAHERTY LLP

Joshua S. Broitman Reg. No. 38,006

825 Third Avenue New York, New York 10022-7519 (212) 826-6565